to the agriculture sector and reducing environmental pollution, Government have introduced a programme to supply ethanol-blended petrol in 10 sugar producing States and 4 contiguous Union Territories, subject to the availability of ethanol at reasonable prices. The programme is being implemented in the States of Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal, in 21 Districts of Andhra Pradesh and in 9 Districts of Tamil Nadu and in the Union Territories of Chandigarh, Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. The future road map for the ethanol blended petrol programme is dependent on assured availability of ethanol at economic prices.

Ethanol is a derivative of sugarcane molasses which is a decontrolled item, and no industrial license or permission from the Central Government is necessary for production of ethanol. However, the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982 and Sugar Development Fund (SDF) Rules, 1983, as amended from time to time, provide for extending loans to any sugar facory, or any unit thereof for production of anhydrous alcohol or ethanol from alcohol with a view to improving viability. The Act and Rules are administered by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.

Introduction of Bharat-II Emission Norms

1420. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to introduce Bharat Stage-II emission norms in the entire country by April, 2005; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the road map laid down in the Auto Fuel Policy approved by the Government, Bharat Stage-II compliant fuel and new vehicles would be introduced in the entire country with effect from 1st April, 2005. The oil companies are implementing suitable fuel quality upgradation programmes to achieve the laid down fuel quality by the designated date.